OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SCS - Mr. Robert A. McKenzie DATE: February 17, 1961

FROM : SCS - Alice B. Correll

SUBJECT: Sabena Crash at Brussels

Miss Haggerty of the New York Office of Sabena (telephone JUdson 6-1070 during business hours [redacted] telephoned me last night to ask if the Department would obtain from the Czech Embassy the fingerprints of the members of the United States Figure Skating Team and of the relatives or other persons accompanying them. She said Sabena had been informed they had all been fingerprinted by the Czechs as a necessary part of their applications for Czech visas. Mrs. Correll telephoned Mr. Richard W. Tims, EE, and then Mr. Karl Sommerlatte, EE, to inquire whether the report regarding fingerprinting was accurate and, if so, regarding the possibility of obtaining the fingerprints from the Czech Embassy during the night. (Sabena wished to fly the prints to Brussels immediately.) Mr. Tims and Mr. Sommerlatte both said they did not know of any such requirement for Czech visas. Mr. Sommerlatte said he was reasonably sure there was no such requirement in view of bloc protests against our fingerprinting routine. He said he would like to know where Sabena had obtained its information.

Mrs. Correll telephoned the New York Sabena Office and informed it that so far as the Department was aware there was no requirement for fingerprints in connection with Czech visa applications and that it was seriously doubted that even if the Embassy had the fingerprints anything could be accomplished until the next day. The Sabena officer stated in reply to Mrs. Correll's inquiry that the report regarding fingerprinting had come from the Boston Sabena Office which had been informed by the Kelley family that fingerprints were taken for visa purposes. The officer also said that two Federal Bureau of Investigation experts were working with the Sabena officials during the night and one had flown or was flying to Brussels to assist there.

cc: Mr. Richard W. Tims, EE
Mr. Karl Sommerlatte, EE

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All Air Crash Bodies Identified

BRUSSELS, Feb. 23 (AP).— All the bodies of the 73 victims of the Sabena Airline crash near Brussels have been identified, police sources announced today.

They praised the help given by FBI specialists who flew here with fingerprints, dental charts and other medical or surgical data on the 49 Americans killed in the crash.

Sabena officials had said yesterday that nine of the Americans might never be identified because of the condition of the bodies.

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